

name of *Septocolla adpressa*, p. 152, fig. 247. Our *Ditiola nuda* is the same thing, but with the sporophores perfectly continuous and of the same colour with the parent threads, as represented in our figure, the correctness of which we have verified by a fresh examination. In all, we find the minute bodies which Tulasne calls spermatia attached to the spores.

729. *Hymenula punctiformis*, n. s. *Gelatinosa punctiformis pallida subundulata sporis ellipticis.*

On decorticated fir poles. Batheaston, Sept. 12, 1853.

Punctiform, gelatinous, dirty white or very pale umber, slightly tinged with yellow,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a line broad, slightly undulated, consisting of erect simple threads; spores minute, elliptic, .0002 inch long.

This has somewhat the appearance of minute specimens of *Peziza vulgaris*, but there is no trace of asci.

\**Ditiola radicata*, Fr. Syst. Myc. ii. p. 170. On fir. East Bergholt, Rev. Dr. Badham.

[To be continued.]

### XXXVI.—Descriptions of new species of Ceylon Reptiles.

By Dr. KELAART.

#### *Eumeces* (?) *Taprobanensis*, n. s.

ABOVE dark brown, with six lines of black dots on the back; sides of neck and body of a darker brown colour, minutely dotted white; a few white dots also on the limbs; beneath whitish; upper surface of tail of the same colour as the body; under surface gray, each scale with a blackish spot. Head short, subtriangular; muzzle narrow, rounded. Nostril pierced on the upper edge of nasal plate. Eyes large; eyelids scaly, edges slightly granular; lower lid with a series of larger scales. Ears small, circular, dentated anteriorly by two or three projecting scales. Body rather short, subcylindrical. Tail elongated, rounded, tapering, pointed. Limbs four, small, *not* wide apart. Toes 5-5, short, unequal, tubercular beneath, clawed. Palms and soles granular.

Head and body  $1\frac{7}{10}$  inch; tail  $2\frac{6}{10}$  inch.

*Hab.* Nuwera Elia (6000 feet).

This Skink is distinguished from *Riopa albopunctata* of Gray by its dark brown colour, and the limbs being placed nearer each other.

#### *Polypedates* (?) *Schmarda*, n. s.

Above brownish gray; beneath white, posterior half of abdomen marked with black. Eyebrows armed with spines. Back and

sides tuberculated. Limbs armed with tubercular sharp-pointed spines.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch long.

*Hab.* Adam's Peak (5600 feet).

This novel form of Tree-frog was found by Professor Schmarda of Prague in his late visit to Ceylon, in company with Chevalier Fridau and Baron Konigsbrun.

Ceylon, Galle, January 28, 1854.

XXXVII.—*A Revision of the Arrangement of the Families of Bivalve Shells* (Conchifera). By JOHN EDWARD GRAY, Ph.D., F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.

I HAVE lately had occasion to examine the animals of several genera of Bivalve shells, and to consult and compare all the figures and descriptions of the animals of the different genera I have been able to find in the various works and essays on this subject, for the purpose of preparing for the press the text of the fifth and concluding volume of Mrs. Gray's work, 'Figures of Mollusca.' With these materials before me, I was led to consider, as I have done on several other occasions, the characters which have been used to separate the various families, and those which unite them into larger groups,—a subject surrounded with difficulties, when we consider the very great uniformity which exists in the animals of this class, and the modifications which habitation and modes of life produce in genera which are evidently nearly related to each other, as shown in a former communication (*Ann. & Mag. N. H.* 1853, vol. xi. p. 402).

After repeated comparison, and forming lists of the families according to the various characters, after the example of Adanson, and thus obtaining those which appear to be least variable in the greater number of the families, I am induced to believe that the division of the Class into Orders, according to the presence, absence, and number of the siphonal openings, as proposed by Poli, and followed by Cuvier, Gardner, and many other naturalists, but without paying any attention to the length or shortness, the retractility or contractility of these organs, as was done by those and most of the authors who have succeeded them,—is decidedly the best and most natural\*.

\* M. Deshayes' '*Traité élémentaire de Conchyliologie*,' 1843–1850. A conchologist, wedded to the Lamarckian school, has asked, with considerable critical acrimony, "Et d'abord pourquoi M. Gray commence-t-il la classe des Conchifères par la famille des Vénérides? Nous avouons ne pouvoir le deviner. Jusqu'ici tous les classificateurs, quelques soient les principes de leurs méthodes, ont toujours été entraînés par la nature des choses à placer